AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application. Claims 1-3, 11-13, 20, 28, 35, 41-48, 50-53, and 55 have been amended.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing venture capital ("VC") investments in a plurality of industries, comprising:

allocating a plurality of portions of the display device to correspond to a plurality of ~~separate~~ industries;

allocating a plurality of sub-portions for ~~of~~ each portion, each sub-portion allocated to a sub-industry of one industry allocated to that portion ~~to a sub-industry of the industry to which that portion corresponds~~; ~~and~~

within ~~the~~ each sub-portion, displaying a venture capital shape for each VC portfolio company in that sub-industry, ~~wherein~~ the venture capital shapes are arranged in a spiral, including determining the spatial relationship among the venture capital shapes in the spiral based on a particular characteristic associated with the VC portfolio companies~~, the size of each sub-portion being determined by the number of VC portfolio companies in the corresponding sub-industry.~~;

displaying an industry shape for each industry and a sub-industry shape for each sub-industry;

selecting a first color scheme to represent characteristic industry values;

selecting a second color scheme to represent characteristic sub-industry values;

selecting a third color scheme to represent characteristic VC portfolio company values;

graphically depicting a first real world relationship between the plurality of industries by altering the industry shapes in accordance with the first color scheme;

graphically depicting a second real world relationship between the sub-industries for a given industry by altering the corresponding sub-industry shapes in accordance with the second color scheme; and

graphically depicting a third real world relationship between the VC portfolio companies for a given sub-industry by altering the corresponding venture capital shapes in accordance with the third color scheme.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~allocating a plurality of sub-portions for each portion, each sub-portion allocated to a separate sub-industry of the industry allocated to that portion, and displaying an industry shape for each industry and a sub-industry shape for each sub-industry.~~

selecting a first spatial scheme to represent a fourth real world relationship between each sub-industry and the corresponding industry; and

graphically depicting the fourth real world relationship by the placement of the sub-industry shapes with respect to the corresponding industry in accordance with the first spatial scheme.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, further comprising:

~~arranging the sub-portions according to a characteristic of the sub-industries to which the sub-portions are allocated.~~

selecting a second spatial scheme to represent a fifth real world relationship between each sub-industry and the remaining sub-industries for a given industry; and

graphically depicting the fifth real world relationship by the placement of each sub-industry shape with respect to the remaining sub-industry shapes in accordance with the second spatial scheme.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein:

the particular characteristic, is a first particular characteristic;

each venture capital shape is displayed with an indication of a second particular characteristic;

each industry shape is displayed with an indication of an industry particular characteristic; and

each sub-industry shape is displayed with an indication of a sub-industry particular characteristic.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein:

the first particular characteristic is an amount of time since the VC portfolio company was seeded; and the second particular characteristic is total VC investment for that company as of a particular time.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5, further comprising:

changing the particular time; and modifying the display to account for the second particular characteristic as of the changed particular time.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, further comprising:

changing the particular time based on input from a user.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7, further comprising:

displaying a user interface element indicating the particular time; and

receiving the changed particular time from a user via the user interface element.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 4, wherein the indication with which each venture capital, industry, and sub-industry shape is displayed includes color.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein:

the first particular characteristic is an amount of time since a particular event occurred with respect to the VC portfolio company; and

the second particular characteristic is as of a particular time.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing objects in a plurality of categories, comprising:

allocating a plurality of portions of the display device to correspond to a plurality of ~~separate~~ categories;

allocating a sub-portion of each portion to a sub-category of the category to which that portion corresponds; and

within the sub-portion, displaying an object shape for each object in that sub-category, ~~wherein~~ the object shapes are arranged in a spiral, including determining the spatial relationship among the object shapes in the spiral based on a particular characteristic associated with the objects, ~~the size of each sub-portion being determined by the number of objects in the corresponding sub-category.~~;

selecting a first color scheme to represent characteristic category values;

graphically depicting a first real world relationship between the categories by altering the portions in accordance with the first color scheme;

selecting a first spatial scheme to represent a second real world relationship between each sub-category and the corresponding category;

graphically depicting the second real world relationship by altering the placement of the sub-portion with respect to the corresponding portion in accordance with the first spatial scheme;

selecting a second color scheme to represent characteristic object values; and

graphically depicting a third real world relationship between the objects of a given sub-category by altering the corresponding object shapes in accordance with the second color scheme.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 11, further comprising:

allocating a plurality of sub-portions for each portion, each sub-portion allocated to a separate sub-category of the category to which that portion is allocated, and displaying a category shape for each category and a sub-category shape for each sub-category~~.~~;

selecting a third color scheme to represent characteristic sub-category values; and

graphically depicting a fourth real world relationship between the sub-categories of a given category by altering the corresponding sub-category shapes in accordance with the second color scheme.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 12, further comprising:

~~arranging the sub-portions according to a characteristic of the sub-categories to which the sub-portions are allocated.~~

selecting a second spatial scheme to represent a fifth real world relationship between each object and the corresponding sub-category; and

graphically depicting the fifth real world relationship by altering the placement of the object shapes with respect to the corresponding sub-portion in accordance with the second spatial scheme.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of claim 12, wherein:

the particular characteristic is a first particular characteristic;

each object shape is displayed with an indication of a second particular characteristic;

each category shape is displayed with an indication of a category particular characteristic; and

each sub-category shape is displayed with an indication of a sub-category particular characteristic.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein:

the first particular characteristic is an amount of time since a particular event occurred with respect to the object; and

the second particular characteristic is as of a particular time.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15, further comprising:

changing the particular time; and

modifying the display to account for the second particular characteristic as of the changed particular time.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16, further comprising:

changing the particular time based on input from a user.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17, further comprising:

displaying a user interface element indicating the particular time; and

receiving the changed particular time from a user via the user interface element.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein the indication with which each category, sub-category, and object shape is displayed includes color.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing at least one venture capital firm ("VC"), comprising:

a) generating a line to represent at least one VC firm and allocating a plurality of linear portions of the display along that line to correspond to a plurality of separate time segments;

b) at each of the plurality of linear portions, altering the ~~size~~ length of the linear portion to provide an indication of a value of a characteristic of the at least one VC firm for the time segment to which that linear portion corresponds; such that the past financial performance of the at least one VC firm graphically depicts whether there is an investment opportunity associated with a market to which the at least one VC firm belongs.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 20, wherein:

the characteristic includes a return on investment measurement for the VC firm.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein:

the linear portion is rectangular in shape.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 22, wherein:

the characteristic includes return on investment.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 22, wherein:

the characteristic is a first characteristic;

the method further comprises displaying the rectangle with a color based on a second characteristic of the venture capital firm.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of claim 20, further comprising:

displaying a shape having a color based on the value of the characteristic.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein:

the plurality of linear portions are first linear portions, and the at least one venture capital investment firm is a first venture capital firm; and

the method further comprises

allocating a plurality of second linear portions of the display to correspond to the plurality of time segments; and

at each of the plurality of second linear portions, displaying along the second linear portion an indication of a value of the first characteristic of at least one second venture capital firm in the time segment to which that second linear portion corresponds.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the first linear portion corresponding to a particular one of the time segments is adjacent to the second linear portion corresponding to the particular one of the time segments.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing at least one object, comprising:

a) generating a line to represent at least one object and allocating a plurality of linear portions of the display along that line to correspond to a plurality of separate ranges of a first characteristic;

b) at each of the plurality of linear portions, displaying along the linear portion an indication of a value of a second characteristic and a value of a third characteristic of the at least one object for the range, of the first characteristic, to which that linear portion corresponds~~.~~;

c) graphically depicting at least one real world relationship between the first characteristic, the second characteristic, and the third characteristic; and

d) graphically depicting a first mover advantage indicative of an investment opportunity in a specific industry.

Claim 29 (original): The method of claim 28, wherein:

the first characteristic includes time.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The method of claim 28, further comprising:

displaying a rectangle having a length along the linear portion based on the value of the second characteristic.

Claim 31 (original): The method of claim 30, further comprising:

displaying the rectangle having a color based on the value of a third characteristic of the object.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The method of claim 28, further comprising:

displaying a shape having a color based on the value of the second characteristic.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method of claim 28, wherein:

the plurality of linear portions are first linear portions, and the at least one object is a first object; and

the method further comprises

allocating a plurality of second linear portions of the display to correspond to the plurality of separate ranges of the first characteristic; and

at each of the plurality of second linear portions, displaying an indication of a value of the second characteristic of at least one second object in the range of the first characteristic to which that second linear portion corresponds.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the first linear portion corresponding to a particular one of the time segments is adjacent to the second linear portion corresponding to the particular one of the time segments.

Claim 35 (currently amended): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing venture capital investments, comprising:

generating a plurality of first shapes on the display, wherein each first shape indicates a number of associated venture capital firms having a value of a first particular characteristic within a range of values that correspond to that first shape;

within each first shape, generating a second shape for at least some of the venture capital firms associated with that first shape, wherein each second shape indicates a value of a second particular characteristic of that venture capital firm, and either the first or second shape, or both, indicates a value of another particular characteristic, wherein the arrangement of the first and second shapes graphically depict financial performance of each venture capital firm over time

and at least one first mover advantage indicative of an investment opportunity in a specific industry.

Claim 36 (original): The method of claim 35, wherein:

the first shapes are rectangles; and

the second shapes are rectangles.

Claim 37 (original): The method of claim 35, wherein:

the first shapes are rectangles; and each first shape indicates the number of associated venture capital firms by the length of that rectangle.

Claim 38 (original): The method of claim 35, wherein:

the second shapes are rectangles; and

each second shape indicates the value of the second particular characteristic by the length of that rectangle.

Claim 39 (original): The method of claim 36, wherein:

each first shape indicates the number of associated venture capital firms by the length of the rectangle that is that first shape;

each second shape indicates the value of the second particular characteristic by the length of the rectangle that is that second shape; and

the lengths of the rectangles that are the second shapes are perpendicular to the lengths of the rectangles that are the first shapes.

Claim 40 (original): The method of claim 38, wherein:

the second shape indicates a third particular characteristic of that venture capital firm by the color of the second shape.

Claim 41 (currently amended): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing objects, comprising:

generating a plurality of first shapes on the display, ~~wherein~~ each first shape ~~indicates a number of associated objects having a value of a first particular characteristic within a range of values that correspond to that first shape~~ represents an industry;

~~within each first shape,~~ generating a plurality of second shapes on the display, each second shape ~~for at least some of the objects~~ associated with one ~~that~~ first shape, ~~wherein~~ each second shape ~~indicates a value of a second particular characteristic of that object, and either the first or second shape, or both, indicates a value of another particular characteristic~~ represents a sub-industry;

generating a plurality of third shapes on the display, each third shape associated with one second shape, each third shape represents a venture capital firm;

selecting a first color scheme to represent characteristic industry values;

selecting a second color scheme to represent characteristic sub-industry values;

selecting a first spatial scheme to represent a first real world relationship between each sub-industry and the corresponding industry;

graphically depicting the first real world relationship by altering the corresponding second shapes in accordance with the first spatial scheme;

graphically depicting a second real world relationship between the industries by altering the first shapes in accordance with the first color scheme; and

graphically depicting a third real world relationship between the sub-industries of a given industry by altering the corresponding second shapes in accordance with the second color scheme.

Claim 42 (currently amended): The method of claim 41, ~~wherein:~~

~~the first shapes are rectangles; and~~

~~the second shapes are rectangles~~

comprising selecting a third color scheme to represent characteristic venture capital firm values; and

graphically depicting a fourth real world relationship between the venture capital firms of a given sub-industry by altering the corresponding third shapes in accordance with the third color scheme.

Claim 43 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~41~~ 42, ~~wherein:~~

~~the first shapes are rectangles; and~~

~~each first shape indicates the number of associated objects by the length of that rectangle~~

comprising selecting a second spatial scheme to represent a fifth real world relationship between each venture capital firm and the corresponding sub-industry; and

graphically depicting the fifth real world relationship by altering the corresponding third shapes in accordance with the second spatial scheme.

Claim 44 (currently amended): The method of claim 43, ~~wherein:~~

~~the second shapes are rectangles; and~~

~~each second shape indicates the value of the second particular characteristic by the length of that rectangle~~

comprising selecting a third spatial scheme to represent a sixth real world relationship between each sub-industry within an industry; and

graphically depicting the sixth real world relationship by altering the corresponding second shapes in accordance with the third spatial scheme.

Claim 45 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~41~~ 43, wherein~~:~~

~~each first shape indicates the number of associated objects by the length of the rectangle that is that first shape;~~

~~each second shape indicates the value of the second particular characteristic by the length of the rectangle that is that second shape; and~~

~~the lengths of the rectangles that are the second shapes are perpendicular to the lengths of the rectangles that are the first shapes~~ the graphical depictions of the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth real world relationships include superimposing second shapes upon corresponding first shapes and superimposing third shapes upon corresponding second shapes.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The method of claim 41 ~~45~~, wherein~~:~~

~~the second shape indicates a third particular characteristic of that object by the color of the second shape~~ the graphical depictions of the first, second, and third real world relationships identify a first mover advantage.

Claim 47 (currently amended): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing objects in a plurality of categories comprising:

receiving information regarding the flow of venture capital into of a number of startup companies;

identifying each startup company as corresponding to a sub-industry;

identifying each sub-industry as corresponding to an industry;

generating a startup icon representing each startup company;

generating a sub-industry icon representing each sub-industry, each sub-industry icon contains the startup icon of each corresponding startup company;

generating an industry icon representing each industry~~, the color of each industry icon correlates to the total investment in the industry; and~~;

displaying a plurality of industry icons and each corresponding sub-industry icon, ~~wherein~~ at least one of the sub-industry icons is superimposed upon the corresponding industry icon~~.~~;

graphically depicting a first real world relationship between the industries by altering the industry icons;

graphically depicting a second real world relationship between the sub-industries of a given industry by altering the corresponding sub-industry icons; and

graphically depicting a third real world relationship between the startup companies of a given sub-industry by altering the corresponding startup icons.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The method of claim 47, comprising identifying a first mover advantage indicative of an investment opportunity in a specific industry.

Claim 49 (original): The method of claim 47, comprising displaying information regarding each startup company simultaneously with financial figures regarding both the corresponding industry and sub-industry.

Claim 50 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~49, wherein the size of~~ 47, comprising graphically depicting a fourth real world relationship between each sub-industry and the corresponding industry by altering the placement of each sub-industry icon with respect to the ~~correlates to the number of~~ corresponding industry icon ~~startup companies~~.

Claim 51 (currently amended): The method of claim 50, wherein the color or size ~~of a portion~~ of each sub-industry icon is altered to represent ~~represents~~ the total investment in that sub-industry.

Claim 52 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~51, wherein the location of each sub-industry with respect to the corresponding industry icon indicates a real-world business relationship between the sub-industry and the corresponding industry~~ 50, comprising graphically depicting characteristics of the industries, the sub-industries, and the startup companies by altering the industry icons, the sub-industry icons, and the startup icons, respectively.

Claim 53 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~47, wherein the size of each industry icon correlates to the number of corresponding sub-industries.~~ 50, comprising graphically depicting a fifth real world relationship between each startup company and the corresponding sub-industry by altering the arrangement of the startup icons within the corresponding sub-industry icon.

Claim 54 (original): The method of claim 47, wherein the startup icons within each sub-industry icon indicate a first characteristic of the corresponding startup company by color and the position of each startup icon within the corresponding sub-industry icon is fixed over time.

Claim 55 (currently amended): The method of claim 47, wherein at least one of the sub-industry icons is not superimposed upon the corresponding industry icon as an indication of the fourth real world relationship.